

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 L-02 AID-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 SY-05 TRSE-00

USIA-15 OES-05 OMB-01 /070 W
----- 074868

R 101523Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5654

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

DEA HQ WASHDC

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 1822

STATE ALSO PASS SAODAP FOR DR. DUPONT, EMBASSIES ALSO FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, NL

SUBJ: DUTCH DRUG POLICY

REF: HAGUE 1161 AND PREVIOUS (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: IN ADDRESS APRIL 8 OPENING NETHERLANDS
SEGMENT OF 3-COUNTRY VISIT BY UN SEMINAR GROUP ON DURG
ABUSE PREVENTION AND REHABILITATION, STATE SECY FOR
CULTURE, RECREATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE MEIJER MADE MOST
EXPLICIT PUBLIC STATEMENT YET ON LINES GON DRUG POLICY
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IS LIKELY TO FOLLOW IN NEAR FUTURE. POSITION OUTLINED BY

MEIJER WAS ESSENTIALLY AS HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN REPORTED BY EMBASSY. END SUMMARY.

2. SPECIFICALLY, MEIJER SAID GON PLANS TO SUBMIT LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO PARLIAMENT IN MAY ASKING THAT LEGAL SANCTIONS AGAINST DRUG OFFENSES BE DIFFERENTIATED BOTH IN TERMS OF NATURE OF SUBSTANCE INVOLVED (IE, DRUGS INVOLVING "UNACCEPTABLE SOCIAL RISKS" VERSUS CANNABIS PRODUCTS) AND IN TERMS OF SERIOUSNESS OF OFFENSE (EG., TRAFFICKING VERSUS POSSESSION FOR OWN USE, ETC). FYI MAXIMUM 4-YEAR PRISON TERM UNDER PRESENT "OPIUM LAW" CAN THEORETICALLY BE IMPOSED ON CONVICTION FOR SUCH DIVERSE OFFENSES AS POSSESSION OF SMALL AMOUNTS OF MARIHUANA AND HIGH LEVEL HEROIN TRAFFICKING. END FYI. HE REAFFIRMED GON INTENTION TO SEEK DOWNGRADING OF POSSESSION OF CANNABIS FOR OWN USE FROM FELONY TO MISDEMEANOR. AT SAME TIME SANCTIONS AGAINST TRAFFIC IN AMPHETAMINES, AT PRESENT COVERED BY MEDICINES SUPPLY ACT BUT NOT BY "OPIUM LAW", WILL BE INSTITUTED. MAXIMUM PENALTIES FOR SERIOUS HAR-DRUG TRAFFICKING OFFENSES WILL BE SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED FROM PRESENT 4-YEAR MAXIMUM PRISON TERM.

3. MEIJER ALSO SAID THAT, BASED ON PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE AND PRESENT STATE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, GON BELIEVES USE OF HEMP PRODUCTS SHOULD BE "REMOVED FROM SPHERE OF CRIMINAL LAW" ALTOGETHER. HOWEVER, HE EXCLUDED FROM "HEMP PRODUCTS" SUBSTANCES WITH HIGH THC CONTENT, SUCH AS HASH OIL, WHICH EVIDENTLY ARE CONSIDERED BY GON AS INVOLVING UNACCEPTABLE SOCIAL RISK. MEIJER ASSURED AUDIENCE THAT, IN PURSUING ITS NEW CANNABIS POLICY, NETHERLANDS WOULD NOT VIOLATE TREATY OBLIGATIONS AND WOULD CONSULT WITH OTHER COUNTRIES CONCERNED SO AS NOT TO UNDERMINE THEIR POLICIES. GON IS STILL IN FAVOR, HOWEVER, OF EVENTUALLY AMENDING SINGLE CONVENTION TO ENABLE PARTIES TO PURSUE INDIVIDUAL POLICIES ON CANNABIS.

4. ON REHABILITATION, MEIJER SAID GOVERNMENT WOULD SEEK TO DEVELOP SERVICES FOR ADDICTS, NOW SERVED MOSTLY BY PRIVATELY-OPERATED (BUT USUALLY GOVERNMENT FUNDED) INSTITUTIONS, WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF GOVERNMENT'S SOCIAL SERVICES STRUCTURE. UNCLASSIFIED

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PREVENTIVE PROGRAMS AIMED SPECIFICALLY AT HIGH-RISK GROUPS WOULD ALSO BE DEVELOPED.

5. FYI. UN SEMINAR RUNS FROM 1 THRU 20 APRIL, IS SPONSORED BY UN EUROPEAN OFFICE, AND IS ENTITLED "EUROPEAN SEMINAR ON COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PROGRAMMES FOR THE PREVENTION OF DRUG ABUSE AND THE SOCIAL REINTEGRATION OF USERS". GROUP, WHICH PROCEEDED TO NETHS FROM SWEDEN, WAS ACCOMPANIED BY UN

GENEVA DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS HYTTEN. GROUP'S THIRD AND FINAL VISIT WILL BE TO UK STARTING APRIL 13. FOLLOWING MEIJER'S ADDRESS, HYTTEN DEFINED SEMINAR'S AIM AS DIRECTED NOT AT EVALUATING SPECIFIC PROGRAMS OR PROJECTS, BUT RATHER AT MOBILIZING INTERNATIONAL (EUROPEAN) PARTICIPATION IN REHABILITATION AND PREVENTION FIELD. (BACKGROUND NOTE ON SEMINAR MAY BE FOUND IN UN DOCUMENT UN/SOA/SEM/58/WP.1. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AND PROGRAM IS CONTAINED IN UN/SOA/SEM/58/8 :.3)

6. FOR GENEVA:

IF NO OBJECTION PERCEIVED, WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR PASSING ON TO US SUCH FINAL REPORTS OR ASSESSMENTS AS MAY EMERGE FROM GROUP'S VISIT TO NETHERLANDS.
GOULD

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Message Attributes

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